

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02333 211806Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4407

INFO USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: CARETAS MAGAZINE CLOSED

1. MARCH 21 EL COMERCIO REPORTS THAT CARETAS MAGAZINE DIRECTOR, ENRIQUE ZILERI GIVSON, WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 20 AND THE OFFICES OF HIS MAGAZINE CLOSED BY THE POLICE.

2. EMBASSY SOURCE WHO SPOKE TO MRS. ZILERI THISMORNING (MARCH 21) REPORTS THAT JOURNALIST WAS NOT MISTREATED AND IS BEING EXILED TO BUENOS AIRES.

3. CLOSURE OF THIS INTERNATIONALLY-RESPECTED MAGAZINE HAD LONG BEEN EXPECTED GIVEN REGIME'S INTOLERANCE OF CRITICISM. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED LA CRONICA, THE MAGAZINE WAS CLOSED FOR FAILURE TO RESPECT HUMAN DIGNITY. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO CARETAS' MARCH 6 ISSUE WHICH PORTRAYED THE SQUALID CONDITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT-RUN DOS DE MAYO HOSPITAL, LIMA'S LARGESST. IN REALITY, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE IN LAST ISSUE BY WORLD-RENOWNED AUTHOR MARIO BARGAS LLOSA LED TO CLOSURE. IN HIS ARTICLE, VARGAS TAKES THE GOVERNEMENT TO TASK FOR MISHANDLING OF THE FEBRUARY POLICE STRIKE NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY PLOT AS THE GOP ALLEGED. VARGAS COMMENTS ON THE POPULAR NATURE OF THE RIOTS IN LIMA WHICH NOT EVEN THE NEW PRESS "WHICH HAS SHOWN ITSELF CAPABLE OF UTTERING LIES OF ALL CALIBERS" HAD THE NERVE TO SAY THIS TIME WERE THE WORK

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OF THE RICH. VARGAS STATES THAT THE REVOLUTION HAS NO POPULAR

SUPPORT IN LIMA BECAUSE OF THE PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION OF
CIVIL LIBERTIES IN PERU, IN PARTICULAR THE NEW PRESS LAW
WHICH CONVERTED THE PRESS INTO AN OUTRAGE AGAINST ONE'S INTEL-
LIGENCE. VARGAS CRITICISM IS PARTICULARLY TELLING BECAUSE
HE HAS BEEN, AND STILL CLAIMS TO BE, SUPPORTER OF
GOP'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM POLICIES.

4. CARETAS'S SEIZURE
LEAVES PERU'S GOP ADULATORY PRESS
AS ONLY SOURCE OF LOCAL PRINTED NEWS AND OPINION.
DEAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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